

March 1, 1984

BETTY ABBOTT: The mission of the Nebraskaland Foundation is to promote the image of Nebraska not only to the world at large but also to our citizens and Statehood Day is a reminder of Nebraska's beginnings as a state and recognition of those assets and values that make it great. Nebraska is a beautiful state with vast resources, but its greatest resource is its people. We believe that our state has produced many outstanding individuals in a multitude of professions and fields and they in turn have been proud of their home state and made us proud that they were one of us. We are recognizing five of those individuals today, three categories, Trailblazer, Pioneer and Wagonmaster. The Trailblazer Award is given annually by the Nebraskaland Foundation to those individuals who have forged new paths in their professions. Nebraska, by identification, has benefited from the work of three outstanding people who have been Trailblazers in their own personal achievements and for this effort we certainly thank them. Our first Trailblazer, as was mentioned, was Nancy Foreman. We regret very much that Nancy can't be with us because believe you-me she wanted to be in the worst sort of way, but she and her family planned to be here and then when her father passed away very unexpectedly on Tuesday, of course, that prohibited her from being in your presence. Our sympathies naturally go out to the family, but here to accept the award in her behalf is Roger Ottenbach who is Vice-President and General Manager of KMTV Channel 3 in Omaha. Let me tell you something about Nancy. She was born in Creighton, Nebraska and graduated from Albion High School and the University of Nebraska. She started her TV career while she was a Senior at the University when she teamed up with Jolly Joe Martin in 1961 on a live late night talk show on KOLN TV. After the University she was teacher, wife and mother and is today the Lifestyle Editor of the NBC TV Today show. Her work hasn't gone unrecognized. She was nominated for a Matrix Award by Women in Communication. Her husband is Roger Fransecky, President of the National Television Workshop in New York. They have two sons, 18 year old Jeff, a sophomore at the University of Miami in Ohio, and 15 year old Bill who is a high school freshman. The boys have strong feelings about their Nebraska heritage and they look forward to their twice yearly visits back home. And Nancy